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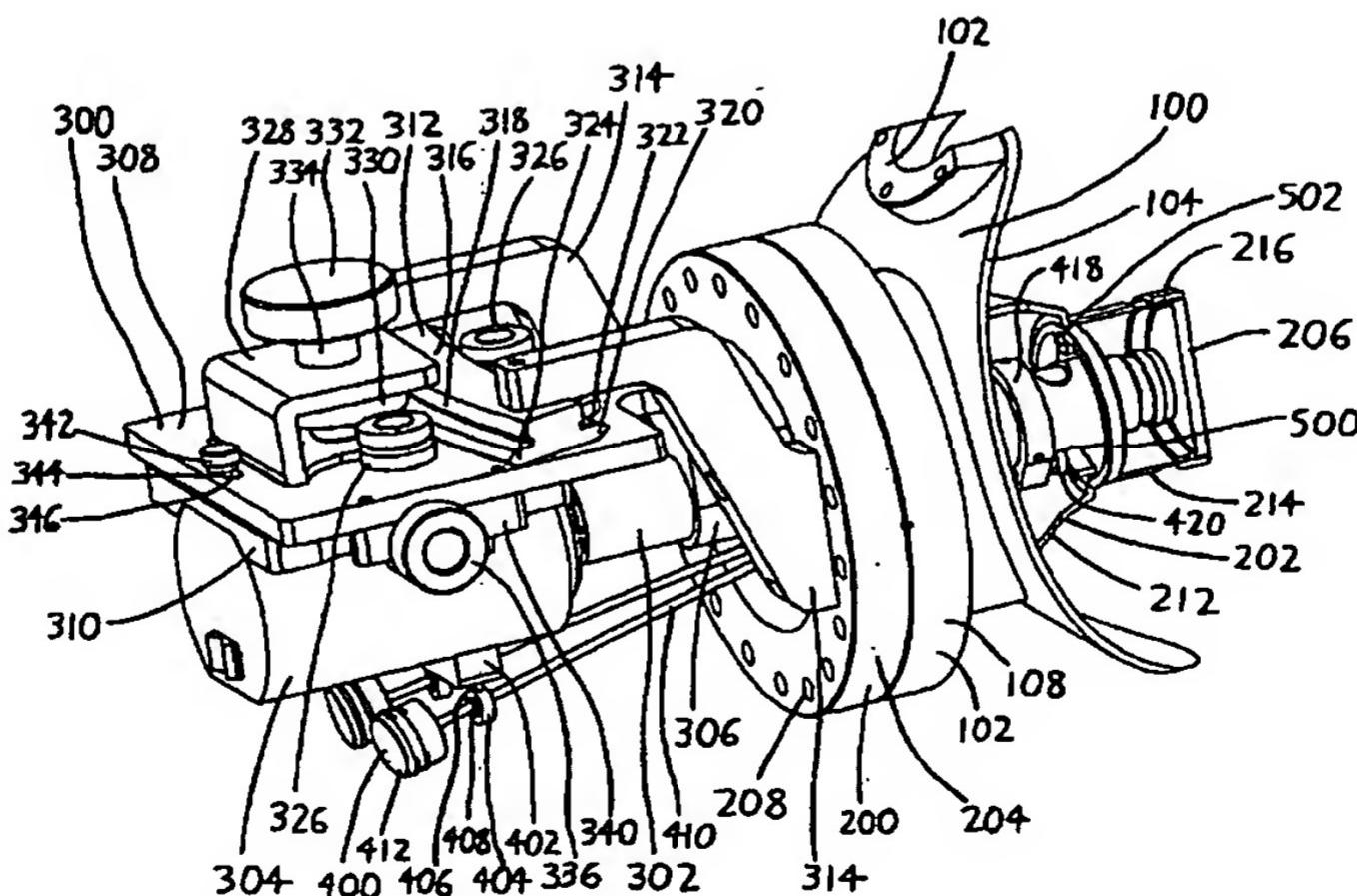
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(54) Title: VACUUM CHAMBER WITH RECESSED VIEWING TUBE AND IMAGING DEVICE SITUATED THEREIN



(57) Abstract: A vacuum chamber (100) includes chamber walls (104) separating a chamber interior and a chamber exterior, with one or more access ports (102) defined in the chamber walls. A viewing tube (200) extends from the chamber exterior into the chamber interior and terminates in a window (206). A positioner (300) for imaging devices (304) is then provided within the viewing tube, and is thus situated at least partially within the chamber interior with its imaging device(s) oriented towards the window of the viewing tube to allow imaging of areas within the vacuum chamber. The positioner preferably allows translation and/or rotation of an imaging device within the viewing tube within two perpendicular planes oriented along the axis of the viewing tube, thereby allowing the imaging device to view an area of interest from more angles oriented about the area of interest than would otherwise be possible if the imaging device was situated outside the vacuum chamber.



- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02B B01J G01D H01J H01P F16M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 588 999 A (TAKAHASHI ET AL) 31 December 1996 (1996-12-31) abstract column 4, line 1 - column 6, line 4; figures 1-3 ----- US 4 834 394 A (KATZ ET AL) 30 May 1989 (1989-05-30) column 1, line 22 - column 3, line 68; figure 1 -----	1,4
X	US 6 354 544 B1 (MUZILA MICHAEL) 12 March 2002 (2002-03-12) abstract; figures 1-4 -----	1
A		2-7

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5588999	A	31-12-1996	JP	2912842 B2 JP 8193964 A	28-06-1999 30-07-1996	
US 4834394	A	30-05-1989	US	4811958 A	14-03-1989	
US 6354544	B1	12-03-2002	NONE			

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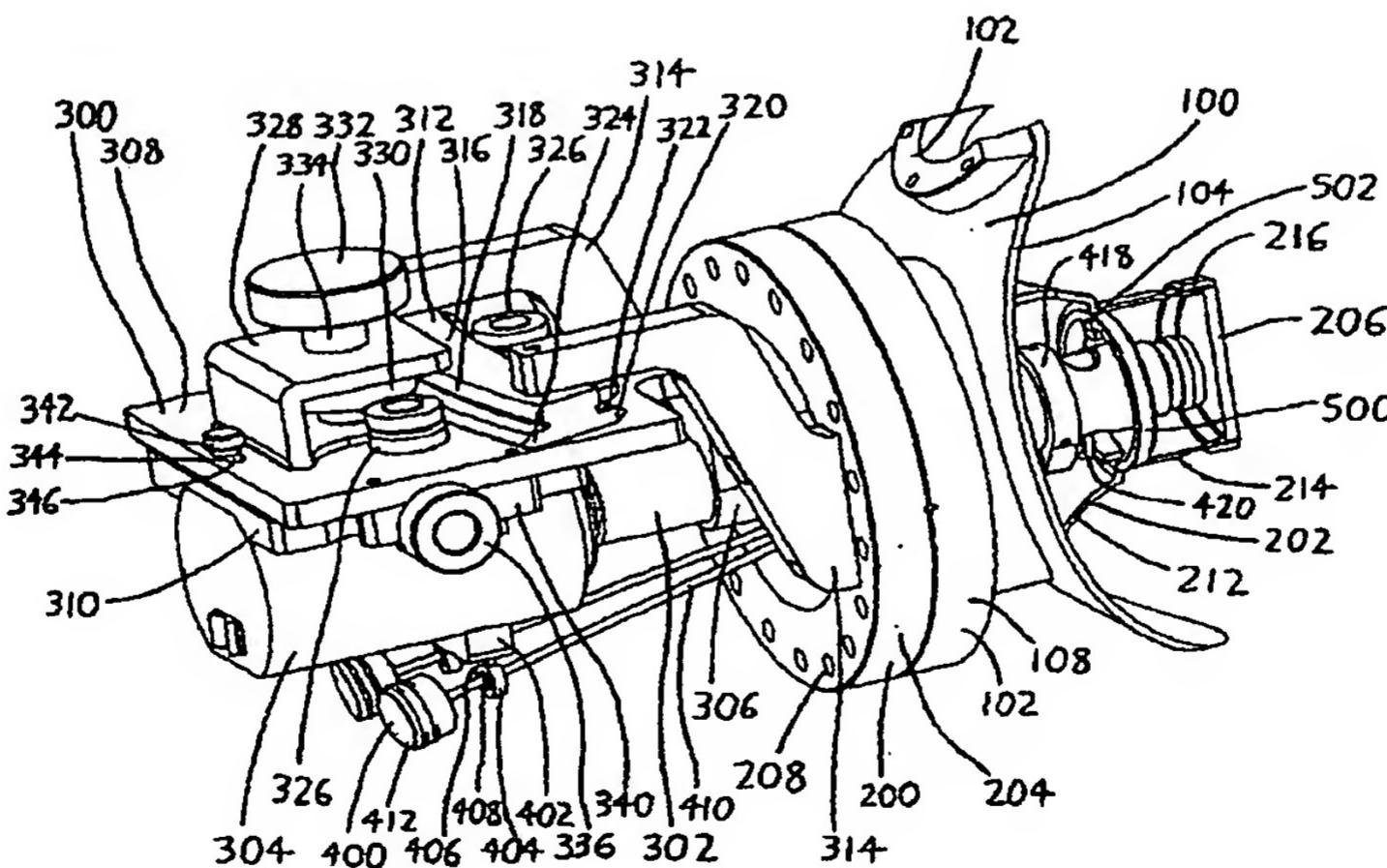
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 IPC 7 G02B B01J G01D H01J H01P F16M

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X		1,15,16, 19,20
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US 6354544	B1 12-03-2002		NONE	